



December 2006

## COUNCIL OFFICE, POLICE AND COMMUNITY TEAM UP TO ADDRESS CRIME WAVE

In response to a recent spike in street crime in Third Council District neighborhoods, my Council office has teamed up with members of both the police department and the community to take back our streets. Residents were invited to a series of four public safety forums to get an update on the crime wave and the police investigation. Residents also received tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of crimes--specifically street robberies.

Since August of this year there has been a string of approximately 50 pedestrian robberies and assaults. Most of the victims have been men walking alone, but there also have been robberies involving women and senior citizens. These are crimes of opportunity in which the perpetrators look for pedestrians who

appear to be vulnerable because they are alone, physically weak, or even possibly impaired from having patronized a local nightclub. Often, but not always, the crimes occur late at night. The perpetrators are of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and work both alone and in small groups. The crimes have happened all over the Third Council District, including in Hillcrest, North Park, City Heights, and University Heights.

One characteristic shared by these neighborhoods is a high level of foot traffic, generated by a lively business community that includes restaurants, clubs and other businesses that stay

open late into the evening hours. Victims are usually on foot and near their destination.



Community members are understandably concerned about becoming crime victims, while at the same time they feel strongly that criminals should not be permitted to ruin their enjoyment of pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods. Solving these crimes is one of the police department's highest priorities, but the police need the assistance of the community.



Most importantly, victims are strongly urged to report the crimes to the police, even if the amount of money stolen is small. The police department will

work to try to accommodate anyone who prefers to remain anonymous. Second, if you witness a crime, try to get a good description of the suspect and report it to the police. Most of the recent crimes have occurred so quickly that it has been difficult for the victims to give police good descriptions. Crimestoppers is also offering up to a \$1,000 reward to anyone with information that leads to the arrest of these suspects. The anonymous toll-free tip line is 888.580.TIPS.

If you were unable to attend one of the forums but would like information about the crime wave and how to protect yourself, please call my office at (619) 236-6633.

## **COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Report from the Chair**

#### *Budget Committee Reviews City's Five-Year Plan*

The Council's Budget Committee wrapped up the end of the legislative calendar with perhaps one of its most important pieces of business: reviewing the multi-year financial forecast that will guide the City's budgets for the next five years.

In effect, the release of the five-year plan kicked off the discussion that will continue through next spring's budget hearings until a new budget is passed for the fiscal year beginning next July 1. As with this year, it will be a lean, bare-bones budget. I will fight to prevent any further cuts to service levels, but there will be no money to restore cuts made to parks, libraries and recreation in recent years.

In addition to projecting the revenues and expenditures for basic city operations for the next five years, the long term plan also lays out the cost of addressing a number of major financial obligations that have gone unmet in recent years. In past years, this was paid for by effectively borrowing from the pension system by underfunding the annual payment, a practice that has been stopped. In addition, we must set aside money to pay for other critical needs that have been long neglected, in some instances for decades, including:

Repairing our aging infrastructure, including streets, pipes and park facilities;

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);

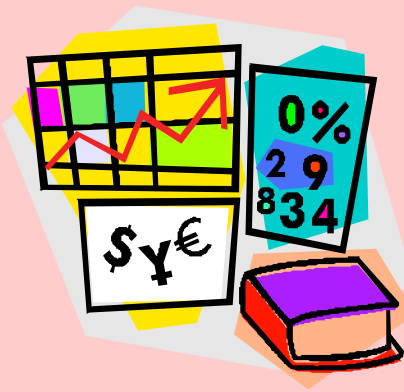
Setting aside money we have promised to pay for the medical care of those who were hired before 2005;

Repair to our storm drains to prevent pollution from storm water runoff;

Workers Compensation insurance.

In addition, I feel strongly that restoring our public safety staffing to reasonable levels by ensuring that our compensation program for police officers is competitive should be one of our top priorities.

The city has long had a structural deficit – expenditures for basic services that exceed revenues from tax collection and fees. In recent years, budgets have been balanced by freezing hiring and benefits for many groups of employees, reducing service hours, and requiring employees to pick up a larger share of their pension costs.



New revenues clearly are needed, but I agree with the Mayor that we must rebuild the public's trust in our ability to wisely manage taxpayer funds before we ask for a tax increase. Under Proposition 13 and other subsequent statewide measures, taxes and most other general revenue sources must be approved by a public vote. The earliest that we could take any revenue measures to a vote would be 2008, the next regularly-

scheduled election.

Revenue-generating fees that underwrite services and do not require a public vote, like the recently proposed increase in water and sewer fees, will be discussed at Council beginning in January.

I applaud the Mayor and his financial team, who prepared the five-year plan, for tackling the City's long-neglected problems head on. By identifying all of the City's liabilities in a comprehensive way and putting them in one place where we can take stock and formulate a plan of action, the City is taking a significant step down the path of a stronger financial footing.

I believe the sacrifices that we make now will contribute greatly to restoring the City's fiscal health.

## NEW COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS BRING NEW CHALLENGES

I am pleased to have recently been chosen by my colleagues on the City Council to represent them on a number of countywide intergovernmental bodies in 2007, putting me in several positions that make critical decisions about the region's future.

In 2007, I will serve on the San Diego Association of Area Government (SANDAG) Board of Directors. SANDAG develops regional policy in such areas as land use, growth, transportation, housing, the international border, public safety, and economics. I will also serve as an alternate on SANDAG's Executive Committee and its Regional Planning Committee, as well as co-chairing its Housing Working Group.

I will continue to represent the City Council on the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board and will serve on the MTS Executive Committee. I have also been re-appointed to the City-County Joint Homeless Task Force.

The City of San Diego has a critical role to plan in shaping the future of our region and I am gratified to have the confidence of my colleagues for representing the City in that process.



In addition to these outside committees, Council President Scott Peters has also re-appointed me as Chair of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, a new committee created when the City moved to the "Strong Mayor/Strong Council" form of government. The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing the mayor's annual proposed budget, capital improvement programs, financial reports, taxes, fees, assessments, and independent budget analyst reports. I will also serve on the Council's Land Use and Housing Committee.

I look forward to serving on these committees as we work with the community to resolve many of the new and on-going policy challenges that will face us in 2007.

## PLEASE REPORT ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS

Abandoned shopping carts can often be found throughout San Diego. Many of you have expressed concerns over this matter, so I hope the following information is helpful to you.

**Private Property:** If you see an shopping cart left abandoned on private property and on public rights of way with some sort of identification label on the cart, please contact:

The California Shopping Cart  
Retrieval Corporation  
1-800-252-4613

This agency picks up carts that are empty or partially filled with trash from grocers or companies it has contracts with.

**Public Rights of Way:** If you'd like to report an abandoned shopping cart found in public rights of way, filled with large amounts of trash and/or has personal belongings in them or if the owner of the cart cannot be identified, please call:

City of San Diego  
Environmental Services Department (ESD)  
1-858-694-7000



A Code Officer will investigate and determine proper method of disposal.

*(Note: ESD is required place a notice on the cart and allow a minimum of 24 before removal of personal belongings. If the items are not reclaimed, ESD will schedule abatement.)*

## STONEWALL CITIZENS PATROL KICKS OFF



The Stonewall Citizens Patrol, a volunteer group that will act as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police in the Uptown area, trained its first group of recruits on Monday, November 27, 2006, at the LGBT Center in Hillcrest.

The Stonewall Citizens Patrol was founded by American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) in partnership with the San Diego Police Department following the brutal hate crimes that occurred in conjunction with last July's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGBT) Pride. Originally intended to patrol only during the Pride period in July, the Stonewall Citizens Patrol

moved up its implementation schedule due to a recent rash of street crimes in Hillcrest, North Park, City Heights, and Balboa Park.

The Stonewall Citizens Patrol is modeled on a similar program that was active in the Uptown area in the early 90's. Volunteers patrol neighborhoods in pairs to serve as a visible deterrent to crime and to observe and report crimes when they occur. Volunteers are fully trained and do not get directly involved in any potentially dangerous situations.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer with the Stonewall Citizens Patrol can call Ben Gomez at 619.269.4992. The Citizens Patrol will also have an informational booth at the Community Volunteer Fair at the LGBT Community Center on Wednesday, January 24, 2007, from 5 to 7 pm at the San Diego LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre St.

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

City Engineering staff has started to review concept plans for the Normal Street Parking Project, a project that will create additional street parking spaces in Hillcrest. I am working with Uptown Partnership and the Hillcrest Association to get this project started within the first quarter of 2007. Also, design work is proceeding on a Pedestrian Pop-out curb at the intersection of Front Street and University Avenue that will help with traffic calming at this Hillcrest intersection. This project, funded by developer impact fees, is also expected to be under construction in the first quarter of 2007. Work continues on the repaving Texas Street north of Monroe – also look forward to additional street work along other major street corridors including University Avenue between 41st Street and 43rd Street in City Heights, Normal Street, north of University Avenue to Washington, and Richmond Street north between the SR 163 offramp and Upas Street to name a few.



Also in October, the City Council passed a trench repair contract that will help to address trenches in the city that have failed and sunk. If you observe any trenches that need attention, please contact my office or call Street Division at (619) 527-7500.

## CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS WORK IN BALBOA PARK

Recently, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) began working on canyon enhancement projects on the west side of Balboa Park. Ranger Casey Smith, Senior Park Ranger for Balboa Park is coordinating their efforts which began on November 13 and finished on Tuesday, November 21, 2006. Each day CCC crew members, alongside Park staff cleared and trimmed vegetation in canyon areas, removed transient encampments and created more visibility on the slopes. All in all over 50 ½ tons of vegetation was removed over the course of the 7 day project, creating a safer and more attractive environment. I wanted to thank Balboa Park staff for their efforts and look forward to additional brush removal in the next few months!



**JOIN SANTA ON THE BOULEVARD!**  
**Santa to meet Mid-City Children and Families on**  
**Saturday, December 16th**

The El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association has invited Santa to a visit with children at the Lafayette Hotel. If you are looking for an occasion to spend time with your family and meet Santa and celebrate the holiday season please come to the lobby of the Lafayette Hotel from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th. At no charge, your children are invited to sit down with Santa and have their picture taken. Enjoy Christmas carols, refreshments, cookies, and leave with a lovely photo of your child. Many thanks to Board President Jackie O'Connor and the Board and staff of the El Cajon BIA for hosting this annual event!



**BIRNEY ELEMENTARY CHECK PRESENTATION**

On November 2, 2006 I was honored to present a \$700,000 check to Alice Birney Elementary School's Principal Amanda Hammond-Williams with Council District Two's Councilmember Kevin Faulconer. The \$700,000 check will be put toward the school's joint-use field project. This project will add 1.6 acres of natural turf for the play area at Park Boulevard & Meade Avenue. The funds came from Developer Impact Fees that are collected from new construction projects and used to mitigate the impact of these projects on public resources such as parks, fire stations, libraries, and roads. This field will be a great asset for the community!



**GENEROUS DONATION ALLOWS FOR**  
**WINTER SWIM SEASON IN CITY HEIGHTS**

Swimmers of all ages who frequent the City Heights Swim Center will be able to enjoy an extra seven weeks of swimming this winter season with the recent announcement of a generous \$42,600 donation by Price Charities. Originally, the pool was scheduled to be closed between October 23, 2006 and January 8, 2007 due to budget constraints. Because of Price Charities' donation, the pool was able to re-open on November 20, 2006, following a closure of approximately one month for routine maintenance. The pool is expected to be open for the remainder of the fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2007.



It is especially important, given the City's financial situation, that we work with our community partners. The City of San Diego's partnership with Price Charities has proven to be invaluable. Many thanks to Price Charities for their ongoing commitment and mission to serve City Heights residents. I'd also like to thank the City's Park and Recreation Department for arranging to make this possible.

Thank you! Enjoy the winter swim season!

## SENIOR VILLAGE OPENS IN TALMADGE

On November 8, 2006 I was honored to participate in the ribbon cutting of the Talmadge Senior Village located at 5252 El Cajon Boulevard. The three-story Talmadge Senior Village mixed-use project, which is within the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area boundaries, replaced a converted motel at 5252 El Cajon Boulevard. The new development offers 91 housing units, 90 of which will be rented for 55 years at rates affordable to very low income senior citizens. The remaining unit is reserved for an on-site manager.

Also included in the project are 3,362 square feet of commercial space to front on El Cajon Boulevard, a 618 square feet leasing office, a 1,573 square feet community

activity room and 91 underground parking spaces. Ken-Tal Senior Partners, LP, a development team comprised of the Southern California Housing Development Corporation and the San Diego Community Housing Corporation, constructed the Talmadge Senior Village in partnership with the City's Redevelopment Agency, through the Community and Economic Development Department. I am very pleased that the community, the City and developers could come together on this project.

Providing housing that is affordable to low income seniors is very important and I am overjoyed that we could open a wonderful place such as this in my district!



## ONE STEP CLOSER TO RESTORING THE 32<sup>nd</sup> STREET CANYON

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006 City Council unanimously voted in favor of Item 331 which authorized the Mayor to co-sponsor an application to the State of California Department of Water Resources for an Urban Stream Restoration grant for watershed stabilization, flood damage reduction, and habitat restoration in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon.

This project covers the southern 150 feet (60' wide) of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon, before the stream reaches the existing culvert that conveys water beneath C Street. Over the past two years the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force has worked closely with the City's Park & Recreation Department to remove non-native species and re-plant native vegetation. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force, in conjunction with the (Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC), has applied for and received a state grant to restore the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon.

The GGHCDC's objective is to restore the creek to its original state and reduce canyon flooding, which will protect

sewer and storm drain infrastructure from eroding. The GGHCDC's proposal also intends to revegetate the creek with deep rooted native plants to prevent bank failure and to help stabilize the retaining wall (22' high on southernmost end of canyon) the supports the nearby elementary school (Brooklyn Elementary).



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Canyon Task Force will hire professional consultation to accomplish the project work. The GGHCDC will reimburse the City for its costs with grant monies. The scope of City services is primarily for assisting the application through the following:

- the environmental process of the Development Services Department
- grading improvement review as City Engineer
- permit process with the applicant
- survey staking
- construction quality assurance

## DISTRICT THREE

## How To Contact Us

Councilmember Toni Atkins  
202 C Street, MS #10A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Telephone: (619) 236-6633  
Fax: (619) 595-1481  
Email: ToniAtkins@sandiego.gov

### MONTHLY DISTRICT THREE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Balboa Park Committee

Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club (Off Presidents Way west of Park Blvd.)  
Meets the first Thursday of the month, 6:30pm  
Contact: Darlene Davies, Chair: ddavies@mail.sdsu.edu

#### City Heights Area Planning Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Avenue  
Meets the first Monday of the month, 6:30pm  
Contact: Michael Sprague, Chair, 619/255-7902.

#### Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (GGHPC)

Balboa Golf Course Clubhouse, Golden Hill  
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm  
Contact: Patricia Shields, Chair, (619) 295-1374.

#### Greater North Park Community Planning Committee

North Park Christian Fellowship, Second Floor, 2901 North Park Way  
Meets the third Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm.  
Contact: Vicki Granowitz, Chair, (619) 584-1203, or vdgwrl@aol.com

#### Kensington/Talmadge Planning Group

Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive  
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm.  
Contact: Fred Lindahl, Chair, 619/287-3157.

#### Normal Heights Community Planning Group

4649 Hawley Boulevard  
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm  
Contact: Judy Elliot, Chair, 619/563-5473.

#### Uptown Planners

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in the Uptown District  
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:30pm  
Contact: Leo Wilson, Chair, 619/574-0109.

### MONTHLY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

#### Adams Avenue Business Association

4649 Hawley Boulevard  
Meets the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30am  
Contact: 619/282-7329

#### City Heights Business Association

Board meetings: second Wednesday of every month at 8am  
at the Metro Career Center Community Room,  
3910 University Avenue.  
Phone: 619/516-2282

#### El Cajon Blvd. Business Improvement Association

3727 El Cajon Boulevard  
Meets the third Thursday of the month, 11:30am  
Contact: 619/283-3608

#### Hillcrest Association

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave. in  
the Uptown District  
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 5:00pm  
Contact: 619/299-3330.

#### North Park Main Street

3076 University Avenue  
Meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00am  
Contact: 619/294-2501

### MONTHLY REDEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

#### City Heights Project Area Committee

Metro Career Center, Community Room, 3910 University Ave.  
Meets the second Monday of the month, 6pm  
Contact: Karen Bucey, Chair, 619/957-5818.

#### North Park Project Area Committee

California Nat'l Bank, 3180 University Ave., 2nd Floor  
Meets the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm  
Contact: Roger Lewis, Chair, at 619/881-8977  
or the city staff member at 619/533-5284.

## DISTRICT THREE STAFF

**Denise Price**, Chief of Staff.

**Dale Kelly Bankhead**, Communications Director; LGBT community liaison; HIV/AIDS issues; special orders of business.

**April Chesebro**, Council Representative to Kensington, Talmadge, South Park, Golden Hill and University Heights; African-American community liaison; homeless and senior issues.

**Daisy Gordon Crompton**, Committee Consultant to the Committee on Budget and Finance; housing issues.

**Stephen Hill**, Policy Advisor/Council Representative to Metropolitan Transit System, SANDAG transportation, environment, libraries, arts and culture, land use citywide; MSCP, Transit Occupancy Tax, water issues, military/veterans issues; Council docket coordinator.

**Pam Ison**, Council Representative to City Heights; liaison to Asian/Pacific Islander community; City Heights redevelopment; SANDAG regional housing; school liaison and education issues; women's, youth, health and Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues; Chargers/Qualcomm Stadium; Community Development Block Grants; newsletter; webpage.

**Cheli Mohamed**, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Atkins and Chief of Staff Denise Price.

**Monica Pelaez**, Council Representative to North Park and Normal Heights; liaison to the Latino community; Police Department liaison and public safety issues; Fire and Life Safety Services liaison.

**Jeffery Tom**, Council Representative to Balboa Park, Uptown and Hillcrest; infrastructure, citywide business issues, energy, telecommunications, BID Council.

## District Three Community/ Neighborhood Meetings

### City Heights

Azalea Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2596 Violet Street at 6:30pm. Contact: [info@azaleapark.org](mailto:info@azaleapark.org).

Cherokee Point Neighborhood Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday at 6:30pm, Cherokee Point Elementary School, 3735 38th Street. Contact: 619/285-1611.

City Heights Community Development Corporation: Meets the second Thursday of each month at 6pm at 4283 El Cajon Boulevard. 619/584-1535.

Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Thursday of the month at 3850 Westgate Place at 6:30pm. Contact: [FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com](mailto:FairmountPark92105@yahoo.com).

Mid-City Rotary Club: Meets every Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at the Pearson Ford Regional Transportation Center, 4001 El Cajon Blvd. For more information contact Everardo Aguilar at [Everardo.Aguilar@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Everardo.Aguilar@sdcounty.ca.gov)

South Castle Neighborhood Association: Meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Buddhist Temple, 3322 Central Avenue. For more information, contact Laurie Carlock at (619) 284-3118.

Swan Canyon: Meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3120 Euclid Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Contact Becky at [rebecca@bairfinancial.com](mailto:rebecca@bairfinancial.com).

Teralta West Neighborhood Alliance: Meets every first and third Thursday of the month at 4286 Marlborough Street at 6:30pm. Contact: 619/281-3551.

### Golden Hill

Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation (GGHCDC): Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Balboa Park Golf Course Clubhouse. Contact: 619/696-9992.

### Kensington

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association: Meets every third Wednesday at the Kensington Community Church, 4773 Marlborough Drive, beginning at 7pm. (dinner for a reasonable price is served prior)

### Normal Heights

Normal Heights Cultural Council: Meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm at 4649 Hawley Boulevard.

### North Park

Altadena Neighborhood Association: Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at Santos Coffee at Thorn and 32nd streets. Contact: 619/280-6662.

Burlingame Neighborhood Association: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm at different locations each month. Contact: [dbyrne4bna@cox.net](mailto:dbyrne4bna@cox.net).

North Park Community Association: Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at North Park Recreation Center, 4044 Idaho Street. Contact: [info@northparksd.org](mailto:info@northparksd.org)

### South Park

The South Park Action Council: Meetings are held quarterly. For information or future meeting dates, e-mail Co-Chairs: Samantha Keenan at [samkeen@cox.net](mailto:samkeen@cox.net) or Connie McDonough at [conniemcdonough@cox.net](mailto:conniemcdonough@cox.net).

### Talmadge

The Kensington/Talmadge Community Association (see Kensington)

The Talmadge Community Council (TCC): Meets every third Tuesday at 4725 Lucille Drive beginning at 6:30pm.

### University Heights

The University Heights Community Development Corporation (CDC): Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the CDC office located at 4452 Park Blvd, Suite 104, at 6:30pm.

The University Heights Crime Watch and Neighborhood Association: Meets on the first Thursday of the month at Alice Birney School Auditorium, 4345 Campus Avenue. Crime Watch at 6:30pm; UHNA at 7:00pm.

## How To Contact Us

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